## **United States Department of Agriculture**



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## To Be Sent Via Electronic Mail

April 7, 2004

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-04-

SUBJECT: LTP - EQIP - 2004 START WAIVERS AND DESIGNATED AUTHORITY

<u>Purpose</u>. To designate approval authority for starting practices prior to contract approval.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2004

Practices started or completed prior to an EQIP application being submitted are not eligible for cost-share or incentive payment. Approved applicants who start a practice before the formal contract is signed by NRCS are ineligible to receive payment for that practice unless a waiver has been granted. Applicants may request the State Conservationist or designee to grant a waiver if the practice had not been started at the time of the EQIP application.

This bulletin authorizes the Designated Conservationist to approve waivers for starting practices. Attached is a waiver form that must indicate the practice requested, be signed by the applicant and approved by the Designated Conservationist. A copy should be given to the applicant and original retained in the file.

As stated on the waiver, applicants must understand that the waiver does not guarantee contract approval or payment. Only those applications that are currently marked as "Approved" in Protracts shall be eligible for a waiver.

Questions should be directed to your Assistant State Conservationist (FO) or to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist.

WILLIAM HUNT State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: AC

DC ARC

EOIP State Office Team